

*H. H. Police V. 8.*  
*Humano. K*

# CONSIDERATIONS

ON THE

PRESENT STATE

*104. n. 24*

*2.*

OF THE

POOR IN GREAT-BRITAIN,

WITH

PROPOSALS

FOR MAKING THE MOST EFFECTUAL  
PROVISION FOR THEM.

WHICH WILL BE ATTENDED

WITH THIS GREAT ADVANTAGE,

THE PRESENT ENORMOUS POOR'S RATES MUST OF  
COURSE BE GREATLY REDUCED,  
AND THAT IN A VERY SHORT TIME.

THE WHOLE MOST RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO  
THE CONSIDERATION OF THE PARLIAMENT.

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*What's best administer'd, is best.*

POPE.

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L O N D O N :

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MDCCLXXIII.





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# PROPOSALS, &c.

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## INTRODUCTION.

**T**HE idea of an equality of condition among men, can only arise in the mind of a misanthropist whom disappointment hath driven into the comfortless state of seclusion from society. Mankind are created of a social nature: but to suppose that they can exist with happiness without a regular subordination as well of rank as of fortune, it is absolutely necessary that men should be, what in fact they are not, totally free from passions and desires, void of ambition, and every one of them equal in industry, strength, and capacity.

It has been therefore found necessary in all civil societies, that certain rules and regulations should be established for the general good of the whole; and to these all the members of such society are bound to pay a perfect obedience. For this purpose, some are constituted legislators and rulers; which naturally implies a subordination, as essential to government, without which it could never exist: neither would the property of individuals be exempt from the rapacious hand

of violence. But these regulations are not confined to persons of property alone ; for, on the other hand, as want and all its train of terrors and despair are the constant attendants on poverty, not to shew the utmost compassion, not to administer every relief, to fellow-creatures under such circumstances, must argue a most unfeeling disposition in those who are appointed by Providence to be *the stewards of the people*. To be capable of denying them every needful assistance which it is in their power to give, they must resist the generous propensity of our nature, \* and act the very reverse to the *national characteristic*, which seems ever inclined to emotions of tenderness for persons in any dangerous or calamitous situation.

\* “ Pity for the the miseries of others is described by the immortal SHAKESPEARE, in the language of Nature, as descending like rain from Heaven upon the spot beneath. It is twice blessed : it blesteth him that gives, and him that takes. It is the most disinterested of all principles, and therefore the most commendable. The breast that is warmed by it partakes of Divinity. The exercise of Pity is the agency of the Deity by Man his substitute, to equalize and level the condition of men, the sympathetic soul taking a share of another’s ills, as though it were a moiety of his burden. The participation of evil by Pity divides the pain, nor suffers an individual to be overborne. Pity is of more price than all other virtues. One single tear shed on affliction is a pearl of inestimable value ; and he, that cannot feel for another, is, by the justice of Nature, a stranger to the pleasure that awaits relieving Compassion. As Cruelty is the apex of Vice, Pity is the summit of Virtue ; and the soil where Pity grows is a nursery of every virtue. If there be passions whose dictates are too much attended to, Pity is not one of them ; it needs less the discipline of Reason than other affections. It is always meritorious, and seldom offends.”

situation. In order then to mitigate that distress which poverty occasions, the human heart is generally impressed with a strong commiseration for the sad condition of a needy person. But, without attempting to account minutely for that compassion which is usually shewn to the lowest order of society, the *poor*, dispersed over this empire, it certainly is well founded, does honour to our species, and ought not only to be carefully cherished and indulged, but likewise handed down *from father to son*.

To make a constant provision for the comfortable, but not superfluous maintenance of the poor of all denominations, \* who are unable to earn their livelihood by their own labour, ought to be the common concern of men of prudence and humanity; for it is evident, that of the great number of persons, of which this vast empire is composed, a comparative few only are exempt from those accidents in life (which neither human sagacity could foresee, nor human prudence prevent) as would render them fit objects of the compassion, tender care, and assistance, of the more fortunate of their fellow-citizens. Of this the number of miserable objects, either returned to their relations for support, or wandering about seeking bread in all parts of the nation, which

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they

\* Taking it for granted, (as I think we may) that an entire reformation in this particular is almost too great a blessing to be hoped for on account of the perverseness and frailty of human nature, the present train of ills merits the attention and redress of Administration.



they dread to ask of their own parish officers, are melancholy evidences, and furnish to many considerate parents distressing prospects of what may, one day, be the lot of their own families, when, either by sickness, misfortunes, or death, they are left without a livelihood.

Of such persons there are many, who, though incapable to make effectual provision for so just and necessary a purpose as the support of themselves and family, yet, were they placed in an asylum, where the means would be afforded them of gaining a support in a manner herein after proposed, might not only become useful to themselves; but the profits and advantages, attending the joint labours of a whole family, could not fail of devolving, in a twofold manner, to society, and thus secure in the most effectual way the *general good*.

At this time therefore of universal complaint, among all orders of people, about the dearth of provisions, it is much to be wished that a House of Industry may be established on such equitable, humane, and generous principles, that the parish poor may find ready admittance into it, and be there usefully employed. \* The benefits attending such

\* The following is the preamble to an Act for the better relief and employment of the poor in the Hundreds of Loes and Wilford, in the county of Suffolk, 1765.

“ Whereas the Poor in the Hundreds of *Loes and Wilford*,  
“ in the county of *Suffolk*, are very numerous, and are maintained and supported at a great expence by their respective  
“ parishes :



such an institution might be extended throughout Great Britain, and be enjoyed with growing advantage by posterity ; by which means many worthy parents would be effectually relieved, their children better provided for, and the decline of life rendered easy and comfortable to the tender and affectionate parents, of generations yet unborn,

“ parishes : And whereas the granting of proper powers for the  
 “ better government and regulation of the poor in the said  
 “ hundreds, and providing a place for their general reception,  
 “ will tend to the more effectual relief and assistance of such  
 “ as, by age, infirmities, or diseases, are rendered incapable  
 “ of supporting themselves by their labour, to the better em-  
 “ ployment of the able and industrious, to the correction and  
 “ punishment of the profligate and idle ; and thereby the poor,  
 “ instead of being wholly supported by the public, may con-  
 “ tribute to the support, assistance, and relief, mutually of  
 “ each other, and be of some advantage to the Community  
 “ to which they have hitherto been only a heavy and grievous  
 “ burthen :

“ May it therefore please your *Majesty*, &c. &c. &c.



REASONS

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# R E A S O N S

## FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF

### HOUSES OF INDUSTRY.

**T**O the singular honour of this Age and Nation, many and very expensive designs, calculated for the excellent purpose of relieving the afflicted, have been generously set on foot, and supported by the prevailing spirit of Public Benevolence. Among the loud cries of various distress, which have reached the ears of the Compassionate, it seems a matter of wonder, that sufficient attention has not yet been paid to the voice of indigent persons of both sexes, who, finding themselves necessitated to ask alms, are admitted into the Work-houses of the parishes they belong to.

But this is so far from answering any charitable purpose, or in any measure relieving the distresses of the lowest class of people, that nothing is more usual than to see them prefer asking alms in the public streets, exposed to the inclemency of a winter sky, to rains and storms, and, what to them is frequently more terrible, the harsh treatment of a parish beadle, rather than make an application for this kind of relief.

Setting

Setting aside the thorough-paced beggar, \* (who makes a trade of imposing on the ~~w~~ l-meaning donors) it is impossible to describe the anguish of mind that person must be in, who, through a chain of unavoidable misfortunes, is turned out from a home, to depend upon the precarious benefactions of the busy multitude, who have not leisure to enquire into the merits of those objects who present themselves to their view: such an one, being utterly unacquainted with the arts made use of to excite the pity of mankind, when failing in a decent and modest application, is then beset with all the dreadful apprehensions of immediate want, and too frequently abandoned to horror and despair. Should such an unhappy wanderer be met by a parish beadle, it is not age, sex, condition, or the most earnest intreaties, that will prevent his driving such a poor creature from parish to parish, or to a house of correction, where each prisoner, tired of an unhappy being, slaves through a tedious day, a reproach to his country, to human nature, and to sound policy, since he is constantly making a progress in a state of reprobateness. This is allowed to be the sad effects of a House of Force.

If the dread then of being sent to a Workhouse operates so very strongly on the minds of the unfortunate,

\* There appears to be sound policy, and the best of regulations, in this respect, among the people called Quakers, as none of them are ever met with begging. This must be, in a great measure, owing to the encouragement afforded among them for industry.



fortunate, as to make them rather endure hardships that are not to be related; what then must be a true picture of these places of Parochial Settlement? what, indeed, but a kind of prison, where the poor, instead of living, scarcely breathe under the arbitrary government of the several officers? If some of them are not guilty of peculation, it is happy indeed for the poor: but the contrary is rather too apparent; and the sufferers, instead of being *protected* by *such a tribe of protectors*, find themselves generally made a job of by some of them, stripped of their little remains by the pawnbroker, and too often fall a sacrifice to the frequent use of spirituous liquors, (the qualities of which are so bad, that, were there a well-regulated police, they would never be allowed to be sold to any one) accustoming themselves to gin-drinking, to serve them as an opiate against reflection. A poor fellow-creature, who (an out-cast to society) has thus experienced misery in the extreme in a Work-house, (situated, perhaps, in a narrow alley, with dirt and filth before the dwelling, and hard treatment, disease, and vermin, within it) may well wish to see a period put to his days; which, in case of his being visited by sickness, is the more likely to happen from these causes baffling and counteracting the power of medicine.

When this last scene is closed, too often do we find the poor remains denied the decent rites of having the burial service read over them; and the sexton,



sexton, who is the only humane person on the occasion, at the time he throws earth over a number of coffins heaped together in one hole, draws a veil over the wrongs of an unpitied multitude of once-living sufferers.

But there is another method of dealing with the poor; which is by sending them to a house that is under the care and immediate inspection of a person who makes a trade of farming the poor at four shillings each, or thereabouts, per week, and receives the profits of their earnings, after allowing them a consideration for their work. This mode of the two evils is the least, since some parish poor have allowed their case to be bettered. But then, how precarious is their situation! The inspection of their overseers at times is but too slight a fence against their ruler: besides, the very term of Farming the Poor is a disgrace to the community, and would give greater offence if custom had not made it familiar, or was it fairly submitted to the notice of the candid.

The recapitulation of the several abuses that have frequently crept into the management of Work-houses, at the same time that it would force a tear of compassion from all degrees of people, must necessarily require a detail too tedious to be entered into here.

It is high time therefore to make mention of there being a means of redressing these grievances by establishing Houses of Industry, after the ex-

ample of those that are in a flourishing state in the country, as appears by the annexed accounts; which, as it is well worth the attention of the legislature, (more especially at this time, when the case of the poor is recommended from the throne in his Majesty's most gracious speech to both houses of Parliament) will, it is hoped, be perused by the members of it; when the good effect will doubtless be produced of similar houses being opened, not only for the benefit of the poor in London, but of those in any part of Great Britain.

*Of the Nature and Advantages of Houses of  
INDUSTRY.*

THE advantages resulting from this kind of establishment must be very great, since it comprehends, at once, the public good,\* and the settlement of the industrious poor, who may justly be ranked among the most valuable members of the community, and whose children may be brought up to useful occupations, in the same house with them, (though not under their influence,

\* If none of the reasons alledged before are thought sufficient for a new regulation's taking place for reforming the lower class of people, surely the consideration of the loss sustained by society during the last nine months, by persons having been capitally convicted, and sentenced for transportation, is enough to make one hearty in the cause.

N. B. The people are in general too often accustomed to see acts of cruelty, which hardens them insensibly.

ence, or guidance) which will be a secure means of encouraging their great tenderness and affection for their offspring.

The necessity of such an establishment has been long felt ; and the advantages thereof being so very apparent from the improving state of those already established in the country, (past experience being the best foundation for future expectation) there scarce remains a doubt of so good an example being followed here. It may not be improper to observe, that the plan upon which such an institution wou'd be founded seems perfectly agreeable to the spirit and sense of the poor's laws, as established by parliament : and further it may be mentioned, that there are not any donations required for this undertaking ; so far from it, it appears that the produce of the manual labour of the poor, will, with the aid of the rates collected for them, enable the trustees in a few years to pay off the first debts attending the establishment, and building a house. The money for answering these expences may be raised by life-annuities.

Whether the nature of this design is well adapted to these several purposes, is here submitted to the consideration of the public.

First, A House of Industry, when erected, might contain the poor, of either sex, belonging to one or more parishes, in a free air, and wholesome situation, where they might be constantly employed, and treated humanely. Their children



might be separated from them in two wings of the building, who, on visiting their parents occasionally, would rejoice them with the pleasing sight of their being brought up to labour and industry. It cannot be denied, but that the provision which is hereby made for the great emergency of *coming on the parish* is very valuable, and the relief of immediate service. Men of very \* low condition can hardly purchase the necessaries of life; and, if they have a family of children, it will be found very difficult for them (who, besides, are very rarely patterns of œconomy) to defray the least charges attending their wives, when taken ill; not but that many of them have as strong attachments to each other, as those who have been educated in higher life, and with greater expectations. They will do as much, suffer as much, and deny themselves as much, for each other, as people of superior condition. This is undoubtedly true with respect to many a poor couple. It is therefore necessary, in cases of poverty, that a separation between the husband and wife should not intercept so fair an occasion of confirming their mutual affection,

Secondly, Every expedient that tends to the preservation of the lives and healths, and the improvement

\* “ It is most congenial with the sentiments of humanity, that, when a man is surrounded with misfortunes, we should the more ardently attach ourselves to his interest, and endeavour to restore to him the comfort he has lost, by animating him with the best of hopes, reviving his desponding spirits, and infusing into his cup of Grief a drop of Joy.”



provement in the morals, of the industrious poor, is of general utility. By feeding them with wholesome food, and avoiding the abuse of strong liquors, they will find themselves not only better able to enjoy their situation, but fitter to receive those good impressions which must necessarily be made on them by the forcible persuasion of good examples. \*

Thirdly, When such places of refuge are established, it will be an easy matter to know who are beggars by profession, and clear the streets from them. †

The public is intreated to attend to the special advantages which will accrue to society from these wholesome regulations, which of course must *lower the price of provisions*, besides that good dwellings may be erected, instead of the crazy habitations the poor now occupy.

This account, it is hoped, will sufficiently explain the benefits attending the establishment of *Houses of Industry*, obviate any objections to them, ‡ give the candid and considerate a just and favourable

\* There is every good to be expected from the morals of the lower order of people being attended to, since their behaviour at places of Public Worship is exemplary, and may be essentially improved. It is very sound policy to foster and encourage it.

† If a beggar goes into the city of Salisbury, the first inhabitant who meets him generally advises him to depart in less than half an hour, unless he chooses to subject himself to be whipped. As they put their threats in force, that city is kept clear from these pests of society.

‡ It may be observed by some, that there are many among  
the

vourable idea of them, and engage the benevolent in the foundation and support of them.

#### PLAN of the HOUSES of INDUSTRY.

THE most natural method for effecting the purpose of a reformation among the poor will, I trust, be allowed to be by the erecting public buildings, subject to the inspection and regulation of governors, appointed by the *chief gentlemen in each parish*, whose province should be to guard against and prevent the incidental grievances which have been pointed out before. The desirable example has been set by several institutions of the kind; one of which is at Naeton, near Ipswich, in Suffolk. A regular detail is hereto affixed in the two letters marked (A.) and (B.)

Though I am as averse as any one to the abating any thing in the merit of that good design, I would nevertheless submit it to the consideration of those who are well acquainted with mankind, whether an undertaking of this sort would not meet with greater encouragement, were the following general rules attended to.

First, In the erecting the house, it would be well to avoid making a lofty building, as one on the plan the poor whom it would be found impossible to reclaim. I should be glad it might appear otherwise. But, be it as it may, I plead the cause of the Innocent, since it is a great pity that they should undeservedly suffer for the Guilty.

plan of the Foundling Hospital would be more commodious and healthy. It would be necessary also to have some extent of ground, for the purposes of a garden, &c.

There seems to be vacant spots, suitable for this purpose, in St. George's Fields, and at the bottom of Grays-Inn Lane, adjoining to the new Welch school.

Secondly, That in conducting this charity the rulers should avoid every appearance of confinement, force, or compulsion, as much as possible, with every thing which might appear humiliating to the poor, such as wearing a badge, &c. On the contrary, it would be prudent to give them honorary marks of approbation, when any among them excel the others in abilities, or good behaviour.

Another thing, though very trivial in itself, should not escape the notice of the governors; which is, not to require the poor to be dressed in cloaths of the same colour. The quality of their garments ought, notwithstanding, to be the same.

Thirdly, A discretionary power should be given to the governor, for reclaiming, by degrees, such persons who have used themselves to strong liquors; as leaving them off too suddenly might be attended with fatal effects.

It would be also very equitable to suit the diet according to the exigencies, or constitutions, of the poor: nevertheless, any appearances of partiality should as carefully be avoided.

Fourthly,



Fourthly, It would be a means of endearing the governors to the poor, were they to give them permission to visit their friends in reason.

Fifthly, Though the major part of the poor would become constant inhabitants in these houses, it would be necessary to extend its benefits occasionally to those, who, being out of place or employ, would gladly seek a temporary shelter in this safe harbour, till such time as they were enabled to work again at their respective callings.

To proceed on forming any other plan, besides that which is given in the following letters, would be entirely needless; since, if there is any thing wanting to make an establishment of this sort more beneficial or permanent, it will be supplied by the superior judgment and wisdom of Parliament, to whose consideration the whole is most respectfully submitted, and on whose experience and decision the whole nation will rely, with

London, Nov. 26,  
1772.

HUMANUS.



Extract



Extract of a LETTER from ———, Essex,  
October 1761.

*On the HOUSE of INDUSTRY, near Ipswich.*

**A**T a time when happiness and prosperity crown our nation, when a King universally and justly beloved fills our throne, when public spirit and charity remarkably flourish, and men seem well disposed to remedy evils and encourage improvements; any hints tending to the public welfare will, I doubt not, be acceptable, and will meet with all the regard and attention which may seem due to their importance.

The case of the poor of the nation in general, but the metropolis especially, has long and often been the object of serious speculation. Their evils are many and grievous; and every wise and good man must wish to alleviate their evils; for, though poor and needy, they are fellow-creatures and fellow-christians, made of the same blood, and heirs of the same glory. Nay, and in a political light, it certainly merits our most attentive consideration how best to provide for the lower, but most useful, members of the society: for owe we not to them all the care and elegance of superior life? owe we not to the painful hand of Industry and Labour all the comforts and conveniences of more elevated stations? Surely then it is but justice, I will not call it humanity, to take care, that

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when age or infirmities, when afflictions or troubles, come upon them, and incapacitate them from their daily toil ; surely it is but common justice to take care, that they be as well provided for as their case and circumstances will admit. Happily for them, and much to the credit of our times, many comfortable provisions are made for their temporary misfortunes in our public hospitals : but whether the provision for them in our public work-houses is comfortable, I imagine, will scarcely be questioned. This is the object to which the public attention has been turned, and which deserves the utmost attention : private as well as public interest calls upon us to consider it ; for parish rates are grown to such an exorbitant height, that families feel them very sensibly ; and if we were to hear the sum, which throughout the kingdom is collected for the poor, we should stand amazed, and wonder how it could possibly be expended, and the poor be ill provided for. Yet they are ill provided for : the allowance in many cases is not sufficient to support life ; and there are some work-houses, which, conscious of this, suffer their poor to go out and beg ; but, with sufficient œconomy, they abridge them of part of their weekly stipend, in consideration of this scandalous liberty.

It is much to be wished, that some method could be fixed upon to remedy these evils, to employ the poor properly, to support them decently, wholly to remove the opprobrious nuisance of common  
 beggars

beggars from our streets, and to reduce the poor's rates at the same time, so large a part of which, surely, there can be no need for inferior and mercenary officers to embezzle, and spend in eating and drinking.

I do not by any means pretend—I am not of sufficient understanding—nor dare I by any means presume—I am not of sufficient authority—to offer to the public Schemes, or Plans, for the effecting so desirable and noble an end. Let me only hope, that some great and good men will take the matter into their hands; and, even in my little circle, I could point out many equal to the undertaking, and to whose distinguished virtues such an attempt would add dignity. The blessings of the poor and needy, and the reverence of all thinking persons amongst us, would attend them; their country would honour them; and, what is chief of all, their God would crown and reward them. But though to hope, and to wish, is all that men in lower stations can do, yet I will beg leave to propose an example to the public eye of a Poor's house which I have lately visited, which gave me high satisfaction, and which occasioned the present reflections. It is called the House of Industry, and is built on a large and open common, in the parish of *Nacton*, about three or four miles from *Ipswich*. The building is commodious, and perfectly adapted to the scheme. It is designed for the poor of the hundreds of Colneis



and Carlford, in the county of Suffolk; and the house well answers to its name. We came to it just as they had finished their dinner, and were pleased and surprized at the cleanness and sweetness of the house, equal to that of any private family, though I think the inhabitants then much exceeded an hundred. The poor, men, women, and children, according to their different abilities, are constantly and regularly employed, chiefly in hempen works and in spinning, according to the direction of the managers. I examined all their stores, and found their provisions in general of the best sorts: they brew and bake, &c. all within themselves, and have separate rooms for their stock of corn, flour, and the like, as also for their manufactories; all neat and regular as can be conceived. It was pleasing and affecting to see little children, who could scarce speak, plying their reels, or performing their tasks, with an assiduity that could scarce be expected; and the universal cleanliness in men, women, and children, gave us high satisfaction. The master of the house reads prayers morning and evening to the whole family; and on Sunday a clergyman performs duty in the place. I should have added, that at a proper distance from the house is an infirmary for the infectious diseased; and an apothecary's shop in the house, which a regular apothecary attends.

The whole is under the direction and government

ment of the gentlemen, clergy, &c. within the hundreds, who hold a committee at the house every Monday, and on whose good care and management the house does high honour. The industry, which every able inhabitant is obliged to exert, has much diminished the number of lazy and troublesome poor in the several parishes within their hundreds; the worthy and deserving poor are comfortably and sufficiently provided for; no beggars are seen or allowed within the district; and very large savings must necessarily be made in the poor's rates throughout the parishes.

Now, if upon this plan of the House of Industry others were erected throughout the several counties, and according to the populousness of the districts, might not happy effects be produced? And does not this seem a ready and reasonable method to provide for the poor with propriety?

I will send you a clause in the act of parliament which has passed for the erecting of this house; together with some of the rules, orders, and regulations of it.

## (A)

*Extract of a LETTER, dated November 1761.*

**A**greeably to my promise I send you some of the Rules, &c. observed in the House of Industry, near *Ipswich*, as a supplement to my last Letter sent you.

RULES,

**RULES, ORDERS, and REGULATIONS, for the better government of the Poor in the House of Industry.**

That the governor do admit no poor person into this house, unless such person shall produce a certificate, in writing, under the hands of the church-wardens and overseers of some parish within the two hundreds where such person claimeth a settlement, certifying that such person hath a legal settlement within that parish : and if the officers of any parish are doubtful concerning the legal settlement of such poor person, they are to certify their doubts to the governor ; and he is immediately to carry such poor person before the next of his Majesty's justices of the peace, to be examined, and passed to the place of settlement, if it be found to be elsewhere.

That the governor shall, in no case, place any persons in the wards till they be carefully examined, washed and cleaned, and new-cloathed, if necessary ; and, in that case, he is to cause the old cloaths to be well cleaned ; and, if such poor persons be likely to be discharged from the house, their old cloaths are to be kept until they be discharged, and then delivered to them to wear, in exchange for the cloaths found by the house.

They are to keep all the able poor to such work or employment as they are fit for, and call them to it by ring of bell at the hours following ; from Lady-day to Michaelmas, from six in the morning  
to



to seven in the evening; from Michaelmas to Lady-day, from seven in the morning to six in the evening; and they are to allow them half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner; and to allow the children a sufficient time for learning to read.

That they cause grace to be said both before and after meat; keep all the rooms neat and clean, see them swept every day, or at least three times a week, and washed as often as they can conveniently have it done; that they cause the windows to be set open every day, except in rainy weather, and suffer no victuals to be eaten out of the dining-room, except by the sick.

That they see all to bed by nine o'clock in the summer, and eight in the winter; be careful to see all candles and fires out, except in the sick wards; suffer no person, on any account, to smoke in the bed-rooms, or above stairs.

The governor to read prayers, or cause them to be read, every day in the morning before ringing the working-bell, and in the evening after supper; at which times the names of all the poor shall be called over, and all the absenters punished at the discretion of the governor.

The governor is not to suffer any poor persons to be maintained in this house without obliging them to wear the badge, (except such as may be employed as nurses and servants in doing the work of the house); and he is to appoint such nurses or servants to do the necessary business of the house, who,

who, if they behave well, and be recommended by him, will be encouraged or advanced by the weekly committee. He shall also see the victuals cut out and properly delivered, take care there be no waste made, or any bread cut under a day old.

The governor shall, on the Monday in every week, give in an account of all provisions received and expended in the week preceding, to the committee, and likewise of all work done at the house; and make his complaint to them of all the persons misbehaving under him, and their several offences: and, at all times, in the committee-room a book shall lie open, with pen and ink near it, that, in case any guardian, or other person, visiting the house occasionally, shall perceive any thing amiss, or can suggest any new proposal for the better conducting this undertaking, he may write his thoughts or observations therein, that the weekly committee may consider the same, and report it to the next quarterly meeting, if they think proper.

The governor is to keep a book, in which he is to enter the admission of every poor person admitted into this house.

When any person falls sick or lame, notice to be given by the governor to the apothecary or surgeon with convenient speed, that proper diet be allowed, and care taken of the patient.

That there be a school in the house, where all children above three years of age shall be kept  
till

till they shall be five years old, and then set to spinning, and such other proper and beneficial work as they are able to perform.

That such girls as are of a proper age be employed and instructed (as far as the matron and servants belonging to the house are capable of teaching them) in cookery, housewifery, washing, scouring, and all other work to qualify them for service.

That the governor provide wormwood from time to time to fumigate the rooms, which is also to be used in washing linen, and in the beds; and the matron is to take care that the nurses lay it in all the bed-sheets.

That neither the governor nor the governess buy or sell, or suffer any distilled liquors to come into the house.

That an appointed bill of fare be punctually observed by the master and mistress.

That, for the encouragement of those who shall discharge the business they are appointed to do, with care and diligence, rewards shall be given them from time to time, as the board shall judge of their merit.

That the governors and matron do not, under any pretence whatsoever, suffer any poor person belonging to the house to drink any tea therein.

That the governor do every Monday morning lay before the weekly committee an account of all materials sent in for the employment of the poor,

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and



and the work done by them ; and shall, every quarter, make out, and lay before the directors and guardians, at their quarterly meeting, a general account of the quantity and price of such materials, and of the work manufactured, with the net profit of the same ; and that no such work be disposed of without an order from the weekly board.

That the apothecary do attend the weekly board from the hour of eleven to one, and give the directors and guardians an account of such poor as are under his care ; that he attend the sick twice, or oftener, in a week, and give them such medicines and prescriptions as their case may require.

That the minister do read the prayers used in the church of England, and preach to the poor of this house, every Sunday, and catechise the children every Wednesday, or Friday, and visit such sick as shall desire it.

#### *RULES and ORDERS to be observed by the Poor.*

They shall at all times behave themselves peaceably and quietly ; they shall not swear, curse, quarrel, or give rude language ; nor shall they be guilty of any lewd, immoral, or indecent behaviour, on pain of losing their next meal for the first offence, and for the second such other punishment as the weekly committee shall direct.

They shall attend prayers morning and evening, eat their victuals orderly in the dining-room, carry  
none

none out, nor depart till after grace be said, on pain of losing their next meal.

If any poor persons shall, during their maintenance in this house, purloin, sell, or pawn, any of the materials or implements of work, utensils, goods, or chattels, belonging to the corporation, or pawn any of their apparel with which they shall be clothed; such offender, if a child, shall be punished by abatement of diet, or distinction of dress or diet, or by moderate correction; or, if such offender shall not be a child, either by abatement of diet, or distinction of dress or diet, or by being set in the stocks, without any other diet than bread and water, for any space not exceeding twelve hours.

They are not to smoke but in the working-rooms, and by no means above stairs, on pain of severe punishment.

If any of the poor presume to beg money, or drink, from any person attending, or coming to view the house; for the first offence, they shall be deprived of their next meal; for the second, set in the stocks for six hours; and for the third, undergo such farther punishment as to the weekly committee shall seem meet.

That slothful people, who pretend ailments to excuse themselves from work, be properly examined; and if it appears they made false excuses, then they shall be punished.

Persons convicted of lying, to be set on stools in  
the

the most public place of the dining-room, and have papers fixed on their breast, with these words written thereon, INFAMOUS LYAR.

*Several Clauses of the Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor in the Hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, in the County of Suffolk.*

—“ And the said guardians of the poor in the said hundreds of Colneis and Carlford shall have, and are hereby declared to have, power and authority, from time to time, to make and ordain such by-laws, rules, and ordinances, for the better governing such corporation, and the poor which shall be under their care, and for carrying on any trade that shall be set on foot by such corporation, for the employment of the said poor, and other ends and purposes of this act, as shall be approved by the justices of assize, or one of them, coming into the said county of Suffolk ;— And that such by-laws, rules and ordinances, shall, from time to time, be printed for the use of the members of the said corporation, their officers, and servants ;”—“ Provided always, and be it further enacted, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the guardians of the poor within the said hundreds, at their meetings on the Wednesday in the Easter week, or at any other quarterly meeting, as is herein afterwards appointed, from  
time



time to time, and at all times hereafter, to repeal, alter, or amend, any such rules, orders or constitutions, so made by the said directors and guardians, and to make such other rules, orders, or constitutions, as to them, so assembled at such general quarterly meeting, shall seem reasonable, so that the same be not repugnant to the laws of the land."—

Made at the work-house at Nafton, in Suffolk; and sold by the guardians of the poor, at the said house, and at their warehouse at Mr. William Truelove's, in the Butter-market, in Ipswich, for ready money, all sorts of sacking and bed-bottom cloth, sacks and bags of all sorts, bed-bottoms, and barn-cloths;—all sorts of white cordage, as waggon-ropes, bell-ropes, plough-lines, halters, jack-lines, bed-lines, garden-lines, hooking-lines, and chalk-lines, &c.—all sorts of rand or netting-twine, laid cord, packthread, shop-thread, sack-thread;—also all sorts of ropes, lines, and small cordage, made of twice-laid stuff.

## (B)

Extract of a LETTER from *Ipswich*, dated the  
7th of December, 1762.

CONSIDERATIONS *on the Management of the Poor ;*  
*with a full Account of the House of Industry,*  
*near Ipswich.*

THE good government and maintenance of the poor is a subject of such importance to the public in general, and to the eternal as well as temporal welfare of the poor in particular, that it may deservedly merit the attention of all friends to Christianity. You have already had our new scheme for the better relief and employment of the poor in the two hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, near Ipswich : I am desirous to send you some farther account of it.

What was before said of the Naeton Workhouse was occasioned by one single visit accidentally made to it by a stranger, and was therefore very short. But, as there is reason to believe, from the various enquiries that have been made by gentlemen in several other countries, as well as some other hundreds in Suffolk, that many want to be informed more fully concerning it, I will enter further into the subject ; I will consider the rise of the laws relating to the poor, some of the inconveniences that attend them in the way they  
are

are now commonly executed in country parishes, the usefulness of such houses as this at Naeton, in order to remedy those inconveniences, and lastly, as some *proof* of their usefulness, the success that hath attended us at Naeton.

Formerly the poor had considerable relief from that old hospitality which was once in vogue. Gentlemen then resided chiefly at their country seats. The roast beef of old England was not yet banished to the side-board : on the contrary, the long oaken tables in the old halls, however strong, were made to crack under the weight of the substantial dishes that covered them. The magnificence of an entertainment was then to be estimated, like Joseph's compliment to Benjamin, by the quantity rather than by the quality of it ; and the large remainder furnished a comfortable relief to the neighbouring poor. This did much : but, before the Reformation, the poor had their chief support from their religious houses ; and, as soon as these were suppressed, they immediately felt the loss of them. Their misery increased so fast, that even in the reign of King Henry VIII. the legislature was obliged to take notice of it ; and some expedients were tried to abate the evil. The justices of the peace, and high-constables, were authorised to permit the poor to beg, within the hundreds where they lived, by licence under their seal ; and severe corporal punishments were inflicted upon all such as should be found begging



ging without licences, or beyond their district with them. But this did not answer the purpose: the very aged, the very young, and all such as were most impotent, and therefore most necessitous, could not go out to beg; and begging could, at the best, procure only an uncertain and precarious support. At length, as the distress of the poor increased, their clamours became so loud, that they occasioned one of the most humane and benevolent laws that ever were made; I mean the statute of 43 Eliz. requiring the inhabitants of every parish to maintain their own poor.

It was beyond the reach of human foresight at once to contrive such a law as would completely answer all the various purposes intended by it: but this is the foundation of all the laws now subsisting concerning the poor; and from that time to this the wisdom of the legislature hath often been employed in explaining, amending, and otherwise improving it: but, after all the explanations and amendments that have been made, the manner in which the poor are in country parishes generally relieved under it (which is by a pecuniary weekly allowance to each poor person) is attended with several inconveniences, and is become extremely expensive in most places. Now, it is my endeavour to shew, that these inconveniences, and this extensive expence, will be either wholly removed, or greatly abated, by the use of such houses as the Nacton Work-house.

In

In providing for the Poor, these five things should be attended to—1st, The aged, disabled, and such poor persons as are otherwise capable of work, should be maintained—2dly, The sick and diseased, besides maintenance, should be assisted with physic and surgery—3dly, The children should be educated, and when of proper age employed—4thly, The able, but lazy poor, should be compelled to work—and, 5thly, The vicious and ungovernable should be punished.

For the two last sorts, perhaps, county houses of correction may be proper places, provided they be properly managed, so as to be not only prisons, but work-houses. I shall therefore think myself concerned chiefly with the three sorts first mentioned.

The present statutable relief is dispensed to the poor by the overseers of the parish, under the direction of the parish-meeting. But parish-officers, or even parish-meetings, do not seem to be the properest hands to lodge the government and care of the poor in. The office of overseer is both troublesome and expensive, and therefore it goes round from one to another in some sort of rotation; so that it sometimes falls upon such persons as are not fit to govern any thing. And as to parish-meetings, if the parishioners are numerous, they are very mobbish assemblies. At these every contributor to the rates claims an equal importance with the rest; and the vulgar people, with their

noise and their nonsense, but chiefly by their rude and abusive language, drive away the better and wiser sort of men, To take the management of the poor, therefore, out of such hands, and to put them under the government of more discrete and reputable persons, would be a probable means of having them better taken care of.

The present parochial relief is sometimes insufficient, and is very often unequally dispensed. A penurious overseer, or parish-meeting, do not sufficiently feel for the petitioner, nor commiserate his case properly ; so that oftentimes, from a want of humanity, too scanty a provision is allowed ; and, if the *pauper* is a meek and modest person, this is submitted to and accepted, for such trouble not the magistrates ; whereas, at the same time, a bold and noisy man, who can get to the ear of a justice of the peace, though he may not want half so much as the other, shall obtain more : but in our Work-house the poor, all and every of them, are *well* and *equally* provided for.

The weekly pecuniary relief is misapplied by the poor themselves. It is well known, that the chief subsistence of the poor, even such as are maintained by the parish, at least in this *eastern* part of the kingdom, is that odious stuff which they call *Tea*, with a small quantity of bread and butter. And nothing need be said to shew the unwholesomeness of this drink, more than just to mention one infallible and constant effect of it,  
which



which is, that in a short time it almost totally destroys their natural appetite.

The children of the parish poor, under the common way of parochial relief, are miserably provided for. Indeed, their parents in country parishes are, properly speaking, under no government at all; and the children learn nothing that they should, but much that they should not. They are taught to steal fuel from their infancy; they are badly cloathed, and worse fed, not with wholesome diet, and not with enough even of that.

The case of the sick and diseased, who want the aid of phyfic and surgery, is as bad as that now mentioned. The poor, or indeed the parish-officers, under a wrong notion of cheapness, do generally run to the very lowest of practitioners, who, partly from their unskilfulness in judging of distempers, and partly from their ignorance of the nature of the medicines they use, often leave their patient worse than they found him. And yet these people are well paid by a parish; and this article makes a considerable figure in the expences of *every parish*. But, if the poor be brought in proper numbers to one house, some person of ability in his profession may be induced to attend them there; and then, with the assistance of wholesome and proper diet, they might have relief in this way much cheaper, and much better, than they now have.

If, in the next place, we consider the difference of expence between maintaining the poor by a weekly pecuniary allowance, and maintaining them in a Work-house, at first sight the Work-house maintenance appears to be by far the cheapest. When a poor man is coming upon a parish, the first thing he asks for is house-rent; and the next is fuel: and many persons apply for these, and accept them, who nevertheless are above taking weekly collections; and none of these would go into the house. Nay, there are many who will accept weekly collections, but will not go into a Work-house; and, when they know they cannot be relieved by the parish without going into a Work-house, they will use their utmost endeavours not to come there. So that the number of persons to be relieved will be greatly reduced by relieving them in Work-houses only. And, as to those who will come in, it is evident, that, if a number of people are to be maintained with house-room, fuel, cloaths, and all other necessaries, it may be done cheaper by bringing them into one house, where the same fire, copper, &c. can supply them all, than it can by hiring houses, and buying fuel for each family or person separately, and giving each of them money to buy themselves food and cloaths.

For these reasons, and probably for many others, the Parliament hath, from time to time, encouraged work-houses, and empowered parishes to buy or  
build

build them, and enable two or three parishes to join together for this purpose; and in some parishes of London and Westminster, and other large cities, such as Bristol and Norwich, Work-houses have had a good effect. But, in country towns and villages, Parochial Work-houses cannot answer the intention of them, for these reasons.

First, They are under the management of parish-officers and parish-meetings, therefore liable to the objections before mentioned.

Secondly, These small Work-houses will help the matter very little in the case of the sick and diseased poor.

Thirdly, The children will not be better managed in these small houses than if they were at home with their parents.

Fourthly, In these small houses you will not have proper help to do the work of the house, and to take care of the sick and diseased; you must hire servants for these purposes: for, as these small houses are chiefly filled with children, or very old and diseased persons, if they should be *inclined* to attend upon each other, they will not be *able* to do it; and the wages and maintenance of servants will run away with the savings of the house.

But, Fifthly, the great objection against Parochial Work-houses, even though two or three country parishes should join together, is this; they



they cannot be *well governed*. Whether a Work-house be large or small, the success of it will very much depend upon the governor; and in small houses you cannot make it worth the while of a proper person to take care of them. To do this, you must make some decent appointment for the governor; and that, in this case, cannot be afforded. This hath been fatal to all such houses as have fallen in my way. It is now the case of all the work-houses, I believe, in this town, where almost every parish has a work-house; but it is generally agreed they do but little good. They can do no good, unless by deterring the poor from coming into them; for such small houses are generally farmed out to the governor, who either makes a blind bargain, runs all hazards, and undertakes to maintain all that shall be brought to him for a certain annual sum; or else he undertakes the poor one with another at so much a head by the week. In either way you may judge how well the poor are likely to be provided for.

The Parliament seems to have been sensible of the inconveniences attending Parochial Work-houses. The subject was canvassed in the House of Commons a year or two before our house was built, where it was proposed to have General County Work-houses. But this was such a huge unwieldy scheme, attended with such an amazing certain expence, and liable to so many reasonable objections, that the Parliament rejected it. Then  
it

it was proposed to have County Work-houses, to take in *Children only* : but this, though it considerably reduced the other proposal, was subject to very many of the same objections which attended that ; and therefore this likewise was rejected.

But though Parochial Work-houses are too small, and County Work-houses too large, it did so evidently appear that the poor might be both better and much cheaper provided for in a Work-house than without one, that several gentlemen were of opinion, if such a number of parishes were incorporated as should bring into one house such a number of poor people as might be governed, provided for, and employed, by *one set of officers*, that would be such a house as would best answer all the intended purposes of a Work-house. In this respect, the case of a common boarding-school seems to be a similar thing. Besides the master and mistress, a boarding-school requires a large house, and a number of assistants and servants, to carry it on : if there be only ten or a dozen boarders, the profit from these few will not answer the requisite expence ; but, if the number should rise to thirty or forty, perhaps the same number of assistants and servants will do for them all, and then the proprietor will find his account in it. In like manner, if a Work-house contains only twenty or thirty persons, many of these very old, more of them very young, and some sickly and diseased, all of whom require attendance ;

tendance; here must be a master and mistress, to overlook and govern them; here must be persons to bake, and brew, and wash, and cook, and nurse the sick, and clean the house, &c. &c. and the expence of these officers and servants will eat up the savings of the house in other respects, and more: but, if the same number of officers and servants can take care of one hundred and fifty or two hundred persons, then the savings from the house will be great; especially if, out of such a number, enough can be found to nurse, and do the other business of the house, without hiring any foreign help, or but very little: which is really our case; for we hire only a *Baker*, and his wife who is the *cook*; all the rest is done by the poor.

These reasons determined the late Admiral Vernon, who had the lead in this affair, and was the patron of it, to get the two small hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, containing only twenty eight parishes, incorporated by act of Parliament; and his resolution and indefatigable industry carried the thing through, notwithstanding all the opposition which, from motives of various kinds, were made to it.

All the objections made to our scheme were trifling, except two. One was, that the persons principally concerned would grow tired, and not give proper attendance; and the other, which would indeed be a probable consequence of their non-attendance, was, that it would end in a most iniquitous



iniquitous jobb. In forming the government of our house, due attention was given to both objections.

To make the attendance easy, excepting the quarterly meetings, no person is necessarily required to attend oftener than on every Monday in some calendar month ; then to be at the house only two hours, between eleven and one. Now, as the attendance is so easy, we may reasonably expect that it will be complied with ; especially, as it will always be the interest of the persons whose attendance is wanted, that this affair should succeed well. To guard against frauds and jobbs, all considerable contracts are made at the quarterly meetings, in the most public manner. No money is paid by the treasurer but by order of a quarterly meeting, or by warrant under the hands of the directors and acting guardians in a quarterly meeting, or in a weekly committee, assembled : and at these general quarterly meetings all the accounts of the preceding quarter are stated and settled, and the vouchers examined and compared with them. And, forasmuch as many persons pay to the rates who are not concerned in the management of the poor, these accounts, so stated, and signed by the members of the general quarterly meetings, are referred to his Majesty's court of quarter-sessions, there to be finally allowed and confirmed : and here, if any man can suggest fraud or mismanagement, before such final allow-

ance and confirmation, he may be heard. What better care could be taken to prevent jobbs? For the rest, as the statute by which we were incorporated is a public act, be pleased to be referred to that.

But, notwithstanding all our care and caution, we were told, and made to hear it with both ears, that a project might seem plausible enough upon paper, and yet be impracticable; that difficulties might arise, which could not be foreseen; and then all the expence would be thrown away, and hang as a dead weight upon these two hundreds as long as the world shall last. We were determined, however, to try it: we have tried it; and, as we do admit that no arguments are in these matters so convincing as those that are founded upon experience, we come now to acquaint the public with the success we have had. But, before I mention the particular savings that have been made, in justice to ourselves, and to the subject, I must first mention some circumstances which have prevented us from saving so much as we should otherwise have done.

First, When the poor came into the house at Easter, 1758, provisions were excessively dear: wheat sold at 54s. and 56s. by the quarter; \* and the prices of other things do generally bear some proportion to the price of that. This increased  
our

\* At Michaelmas, 1772, in the Gazette, the average price of wheat at Ipswich was 6s. per bushel of eight gallons, or 48s. per quarter.

our expences two ways : it cost us more to maintain the poor ; and it forced many into the house, who otherwise would not have come : for, though above one hundred and eighty were first brought to us, since we have been settled our numbers have generally stood from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and fifty, or thereabouts. We have now one hundred and fifty-four in the house ; but sometimes the number is under one hundred and thirty ; nay, at one time, it was under one hundred and twenty for several weeks : from whence I would observe, by the way, that our incorporated district is rather *too small* ; for, as we can receive and provide for two hundred with the same help we now have, had we a few more parishes, or had these incorporated parishes been larger, our income would of course have been larger, and the saving would appear greater.

Secondly, The poor came to us in a most miserable and filthy condition : they were cloathed in rags ; and some of them, the children especially, almost literally naked. We expected, and were prepared for this ; so that, to prevent the introduction of vermin, before they were admitted they were shaved, and cleansed thoroughly by washing in warm water, and then *all new-cloathed* throughout, from head to foot. This was a large expence that year.

Thirdly, Another disadvantageous circumstance is, that the small-pox has been very rife in Ips-



wich, from whence it has often been communicated to different parts of the two hundreds ; and, as we cannot bring these people to the house, they are very expensive, insomuch that it hath cost us more than 200*l.* for our patients in that distemper only.

Fourthly, But the greatest extraordinary expence has been in rearing up a manufactory of hempen-cloth and twine spinning ; for, as all our hands were to be taught, their earnings for a considerable time could be but small, and their waste must be great. We were obliged to hire people to instruct the children at a large expence ; and if to this we add the extraordinary high price of hemp, occasioned by the war, which has risen from 26 to 33 and 34*l.* a ton, you will easily believe our profits from the trade to have been but trifling ; hitherto we have done little more than got paid for our labour. But, notwithstanding all our disadvantages, we have now the pleasure of laying before the public this General Account of the Naſton Work-house, from Easter, 1758, to Michaelmas, 1762, viz.

£. s. d.

Expended in building and furnishing the house before the poor came in, —————

3953 2 3

Ditto, since the poor came in, with other extraordinary articles, —

735 5 3

---

£ 4688 7 6

Brought

Brought over,	£ 4688	7	6
Ditto, for the allowance of the ac- compts and rates at the quarter- sessions, —————		59	13 5
Ditto, for the interest of the prin- cipal debt, —————	845	0	10
Repaid part of the principal debt,	500	0	0
Stock in hand of goods manufac- tured and unmanufactured not fold, or, if fold, not paid for, —	800	0	0
		<hr/>	
	6893	1	9
The principal sum borrowed upon interest was —————	4800	0	0
		<hr/>	

So that, as these parishes have paid no more since the poor have been in the house, than they paid one year with another upon an average of seven years before they were taken in, it is evident the poor of these two hundreds have been maintained cheaper since Easter, 1758, than they were before, to the amount of at least — 2093 1 9

If any gentlemen are disposed to follow this example, they may greatly avail themselves of our experience; and this account is chiefly given for their satisfaction. I had also another reason for it, which is, that the farmers in these two incorpo-  
rated

rated hundreds may be brought to have a better opinion of this scheme: for though they have been told, and many of them have been weak enough to believe, that they should always be obliged to pay the same sum they do now, from this account the contrary is evident; for, within the course of a few years, (barring such accidents as no man can foresee) the debt will be cleared, and then the rates will not be above half of what they are. It is therefore their interest to prevent all unnecessary expence as much as they can; and to encourage the manufactory, by buying their sacks, &c. at the house,

*Extract of a LETTER from Ipswich, Nov. 3, 1763.*

**I**N my last, of the 7th of December, 1762, you had a full account of the House of Industry at Nafton, in Suffolk; and with it a general account of the success which attended that undertaking to Michaelmas, 1762. Here is the state of it for the last year, from Michaelmas, 1762, to Michaelmas, 1763.

By the last account it appeared, that, since Easter, 1758, when the poor were first taken into the house, they had been maintained there, not only better, but cheaper, than they were before,



	l.	s.	d.
fore, by at least the sum of —	2093	1	9
During the course of last year we have paid, for having our accompts and rates allowed at the quarter sessions, — —	13	9	0
Paid interest of the principal debt,	158	6	0
Repaid part of the principal debt,	400	0	0
	<hr/>		
So that, in this way of providing for the poor, the saving, since Easter, 1758, to Michaelmas, 1763, amounts to no less than the sum of — —	2664	16	9
	<hr/>		

The original sum borrowed for this undertaking was — —	£ 4800	0	0
We have paid off — —	900	0	0
	<hr/>		
So the remaining debt, due at Michaelmas, is — —	£ 3900	0	0

I have the pleasure to add, that four, if not five, other hundreds in this county, have prepared petitions for parliament, in order to get incorporated as the hundreds of Colneis and Carlford are.

Extract

Extract of a LETTER, dated October 21, 1771.

*An Account of the Industry Houses near Ipswich; in Suffolk; with Reasons for making the like Establishments, by Act of Parliament, over the whole Kingdom.*

I WENT from Ipswich to Naeton, merely on purpose to view the House of Industry there. It is a large, irregular building; the disposition of the apartments does not seem very well contrived for convenience. The original sum raised for the building and furnishing it was 4800*l*. the average of the last seven years rates over the hundred was taken, and produced 1475*l*. a year. They have generally from one hundred and twenty to two hundred poor in the house; at present, one hundred and forty four. They earn upon an average 250*l*. a year, which makes the income of the house 1725*l*. a year. This had been considerable enough to enable the trustees to pay off 1200*l*. of the debt; and it has been erected but twelve years.

It stands on an high, airy situation, a healthy spot; and the whole appears to be kept in a very clean and wholesome manner. There are various apartments for men with their wives; for single men, and lads; and also for single women, and girls; for the sick, &c. and a surgery. There

are

are likewise proper rooms for the different manufactures carried on, such as spinning, weaving, making twine, making sacks; and also offices for baking, brewing, &c. with proper rooms, and an apartment for the governor of the house, and for the trustees to meet in: the whole open to the view of any person that comes to see them, and also all the provisions with which the poor are fed. They are undoubtedly taken excellent care of, both sick and well. The following is a table of their diet.

## S U N D A Y.

BREAKFAST, Bread and cheese, butter and milk.

DINNER, Beef and dumplings, pudding, and mutton for the sick.

SUPPER, Bread and cheese, and butter; and milk for their supper every day in the week.

## M O N D A Y.

BREAKFAST, Beef-broth.

DINNER, Baked suet-pudding.

## T U E S D A Y.

BREAKFAST, Milk-broth in winter; milk in summer.

DINNER, Beef and dumplings.

## W E D N E S D A Y.

BREAKFAST, Beef-broth.

DINNER, Rice-milk, or broth, &c.

H

THURSDAY.



## T H U R S D A Y.

BREAKFAST, Milk in summer; milk-broth in winter.

DINNER, Beef and dumplings.

## FRIDAY and SATURDAY.

BREAKFAST, Meat-broth.

DINNER, Bread and butter.

Pease porridge used to be the dinner in the two last days; but they petitioned for bread and butter instead of it, which is found their favourite dinner, because they have tea to it. I expressed surprize at this being allowed; but they said they were permitted to spend two pence in the shilling of what they earned as they please, and they laid it all out in tea and sugar, to drink with their bread and butter dinner. Indulgence renders it necessary to let them do as they please with it; but it would be better expended in something else.

Whatever they eat is perfectly good of the kind; the best wheat; none but Warwickshire cheese; the best beef; and every article the same: no neighbouring poor live near so well in their own cottages; and not one little farmer in ten. They are cloathed in a warm comfortable manner, and are in general pretty well satisfied with their situation; but the confinement disgusts them: they are not allowed constant liberty without the yards, (which indeed would be impossible) and this they dislike.

dislike. A surgeon attends twice a week regularly; and oftener, if necessary. The grand points in the establishment are, the poor being better taken care of than in the old parochial method, and at the same time a saving of 100*l.* a year made. These two points are those principally to be attended to in any discussion of the merit of these establishments, because it is impossible they should unite without exceedingly beneficial consequences flowing from them. That the poor of all sorts are taken the utmost care of is a fact indisputable, clear to the eyes of every stranger, as well as thoroughly known to every person in this neighbourhood. There remains a debt of 3600*l.* which will all be paid off sooner than may at first be imagined. If they paid off 100*l.* a year, while they had the interest of 4800*l.* to discharge; now they have only the interest of 3600*l.* to pay, they consequently liquidate 148*l.* a year, which in the next ten years will reduce the debt to 2120*l.* The ten years following they will in the same proportion discharge 208*l.* a year, which will clear the remaining debt in eleven years: so that the sum total will be paid off in thirty-three years from building the house. Then (and not till then) they lower rates. The total income is 1725*l.* a year, which enabled them, after maintaining their poor, to pay 192*l.* a year in interest, and 100*l.* in discharge of debt; in all, 292*l.* a year. They receive from the parishes in rates 1475*l.* a year;

consequently they can then immediately sink this sum 292*l.* which reduces it to 1183*l.* which reduction amounts to a fifth. And this seems the ultimate degree of benefit in respect of lowering rates; and a matter of importance it is, when we consider that it is gained by the same measure which adds so much to the advantage of the poor. But there are four or five other Houses of Industry in this county, and one in Norfolk; some of which, I find, have made vastly greater savings, even to the discharging more than half their debt in ten or twelve years: such houses will in the end, and speedily too, sink the rates much more considerably. Bosmere and Claydon hundreds have only one, of five years standing. They borrowed 10,000*l.* the rates amount to 2526*l.* annually; and the earnings, 400*l.* a year; total income 2926*l.* In these five years they have paid off 1400*l.* which has reduced the debt to 8600*l.*

In five years more they will

pay off the same — — —	£ 1400	
Also the deduction of interest	280	£ 1680
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The debt will therefore, in ten years from the first establishment, be reduced to	6920
--	------

In five years more the same

payment will be made — — —	£ 1400	
Also deduction from interest —	620	2020
	<hr/>	<hr/>

The debt, in fifteen years from the first establishment, will be reduced to —	4900
	Brought



Brought over,	—	—	£ 4900
In five years more	—	£ 1400	
Deduction from interest	—	1020	2420
		—	—
In twenty years reduced to	—		2480
In five years more	—	£ 1400	
Also the deduction of interest		1500	2900
		—	—

In twenty-five years the whole debt paid ; and, as they paid at first 400*l.* a year in interest, and 280*l.* in discharge of debt, together 680*l.* a year, the proportion of that sum to 2926*l.* is the proportion in which the rates will be lowered. It is near a fourth.

It may be asked, How can these establishments be beneficial to the poor, while they lessen the expences so much? I reply, In two ways. First, in going cheaper to work with every thing than parish-officers can, who have not the same advantages: weekly allowances in the parish must be given in proportion to the abilities of the poor to gain what they want: diets of all sorts, firing, cloaths, &c. are all procured by them at the dearest rate; if they buy cheese, it is by the pound, candles single, soap half a pound; and, as they have them from the most paltry of all shops, they consequently pay at an extravagant rate for the worst commodities: this runs through their whole expenditure; they must necessarily be paid by the parish sufficiently to enable them to support all these disadvantages. This is very different at the Hundred House: advertisements are generally

generally inserted in the Ipswich Journal, when any commodity is wanted, that the trustees will meet at such a day, receive proposals, and view samples of such and such commodities. Every thing is bought in the great, and paid for at once : no private family lives so cheap. In the article of firing, what a vast difference between buying by the faggot, for various miserable fires, and an union of them into ship-loads of coals ! House-rent in the parishes was a most heavy article ; but in what proportion to the rent of the Hundred House cannot be ascertained. The difference in the expence of surgery and medicine must be immense.—The second means of saving is this. The Hundred House pays no weekly allowances in the parishes : whoever wants assistance must go to the House, unless they are really unable. This at once strikes off a very great expence ; for, in all parishes that have no Work-houses, numbers of the poor, through clamour, or weakness of justices of the peace, obtain allowances, that would not stir from their cottages for twice the sum : all such are cut off ; besides the numbers that betake themselves to a more industrious life, in order to keep at home in their parishes, all having a stronger inclination for that than to go away. These, I think, are two very powerful reasons for the expence being lowered ; and, in addition to them, the superior earnings ought certainly to be mentioned. But, in respect to the general good,  
it

it is evident, that these houses tend strongly to reduce poor's rates, and partly by creating a new industry. Are not these objects of infinite importance? Are they not the remedy of those evils, whose enormity has been the subject of complaint for so many years throughout the kingdom? Is it not therefore greatly incumbent on Parliament to render universal establishments that have been long experienced to work such good effects? It is much to be wished that they were made general. I made the requisite enquiries into the objections against them; and I found but few of any consequence.—First, The farmers complain, that, where poor rates are lowered by them, the landlords take advantage of it, and raise their rents in proportion. I reply, So much the better: who of common sense supposed it a contrivance to put money in the pockets of farmers? If rates are lowered, it ought to be the gentleman's advantage; for his estate always lets in exact proportion to the height of rates; and if he can let land, that is worth 20s. an acre, for only 16s. on account of heavy rates, surely, he ought to have the benefit of raising, when he has so long laboured under the evil of sinking? But the farmers are piqued in many hundreds, and will never agree to the measure.—Secondly, It depopulates a hundred; for, the poor not liking the house, the servants let themselves in other hundreds. This objection exists merely while the establishment is local;



local; make it universal, and it ceases at once. The reality of the matter was, however, expressly contradicted to me by persons on whom I can well depend. They assured me, that they felt no such evil. Thirdly, The acts of Parliament, which established the houses, being extremely various, and yet public acts, they may be very troublesome to lawyers in any future pleading on them. One act might comprehend the whole kingdom: there is no necessity for every hundred to have a distinct act. But suppose the case; let the gentlemen take so much the greater pains. Those, who are so ready with abridgements in five hundred folios, may just as well turn over five thousand. Fourthly, Gentlemen will not attend the trust: it then becomes a jobb in the hands of the farmers and tradesmen. This objection holds equally against all public works executed by commissioners, such as turnpikes, drainages, navigations, harbours, &c. It is too difficult a thing to force people to do their duty; and yet we find the works performed. Many are careful enough to attend; some will not, and then evils may arise which force them to it: but in some way or other the business is done without any flagrant or striking impositions. Thus it would be with Houses of Industry: some have been erected these twelve years; and yet I could not find that any mischiefs had arisen from want of attendance; making such a progress in paying off the debt does not carry that appearance.

appearance. Upon the whole, the objections that have been made to these establishments are by no means solid: but, supposing they were, are we to enjoy none of the benefits of improvement because objections are started? What good is gained without its attendant evil? Make a navigation, you waste land to convert it into water; and you cut through people's property. Make a turnpike, you tax the whole country. If you will execute no improvement but what may be performed without the least objection, you for ever tie your hands from doing good. Compare the advantages with the inconveniences; view the scale; and then determine. It should be the business of cavillers alone to start objections that will not, united, overturn the benefit proposed. "For a nation to conduct it by such ideas, is to revolve into the barbarism of the darkest ages."

*Extract of a LETTER from Ipswich, Dec. 12, 1772.*

SINCE the year 1763, the directors in the hundreds of Colneis and Carlford, from various accidents, chiefly a very large expence in two years, occasioned by the small-pox, which raged throughout those hundreds, have been obliged to borrow 400*l.* which increased their principal

I

debt

debt to	_____	_____	_____	£ 5200
Yet they have been enabled to pay off of				
this debt	_____	_____	_____	1600
				<hr/>
Which reduces it to	_____	_____		3600

Nacton House has paid for interest upwards of 2000*l*. This Nacton House was the first of the kind: and it has appeared since, that this incorporated district is rather too small; and their annual income is too low, for it is no more than 1487*l*. 13*s*. 5*d*. and they have sometimes had two hundred poor people in their house, never fewer than one hundred and twenty; but the usual number, one time with another, is about one hundred and fifty. And, indeed, as the price of provisions of all kinds hath risen so extravagantly of late years, it is surprising that this Hundred House hath done so well; for the dearness of provisions increases the expence of these houses two ways; it drives more people into the house than would otherwise have come to it; and it costs more to maintain them when there.

We have seven other Houses in this country erected upon the same plan: I am concerned in one of them, in the hundred of Samford, which is contiguous to this town, on the other side of the Orwell, opposite to Colneis hundred. Here we have the same number of parishes, twenty-eight. But these parishes are larger, and the country



country more populous, and better cultivated. This undertaking therefore is larger. Our income is better than 2250*l.* per ann. and our original debt was ——— ——— *£* 8250

And, though we pay four and a half per cent. for our money, we have kept down our interest, which amounts to upwards of 2000*l.* and have paid off part of our debt, ——— ——— 1350

Which reduces it to ——— ——— 6900

And yet the poor were taken into the house only at Michaelmas, 1768; so that they have been in the house only four years; and this notwithstanding the high price of provisions. What is here mentioned is the *apparent* savings; but, to estimate the true and real saving of these houses, another consideration should be taken in, viz. What would have been the expence of the poor's rates in these hundreds, had there been no hundred houses? Several of the principal farmers in some of these parishes have owned to me, that their *respective parishes* have saved more than 100*l.* per. annum by having the hundred house. And you will the rather believe this, when I tell you that the rates hereabouts were increasfing so fast, that, in one parish, the expences of the seventh year immediately preceding the incorporation was *double* the expence of the first of those seven years.

When

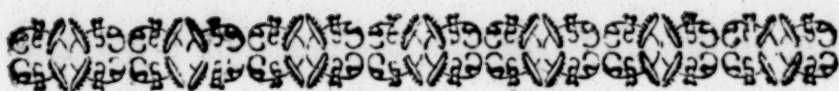
When I saw Mr. Hanway's book about the mortality of young children in the parish work-houses in London, I had the curiosity to enquire what our success had been in that matter at the Nafton house, and had the satisfaction to find it to be as under mentioned. This I mention as a further encouragement. It is difficult upon general questions to give a satisfactory account of such things as these, unless it were much to exceed the bounds of a letter; but I shall be ready to answer any particular questions you may like to have resolved, and am, &c.

Born in the House, or admitted un- der three months old, ———	40	of whom died	14	were dis- charged	13	were then living	13
Admitted under one year old, ———	14	7	3	4			
Under two years,	19	3	5	11			
Under three years,	21	6	7	8			
Under four years,	31	5	10	16			
Under five years,	17	3	8	6			
—————	—————	—————	—————	—————			
	142	38	46	58			

F I N I S.

# ERRATA.

Page 10, Note, Lines 4 and 5, the following Numbers are omitted, viz. 80 capitally convicted, and 244 sentenced for Transportation.—Page 33, Line 3, for *capable* read *incapable*.



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